



THIS WEEK IN IRAQ

The Official Newsletter of the Multi-National Force - Iraq

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Factors of Iraq's Progress

WASHINGTON — A combination of factors is responsible for the improved conditions in Iraq, the commander of coalition forces in the northern part of the country said Aug. 3.

Army Maj. Gen. Mark P. Hertling, commander of Multi-National Division - North, appeared on CNN's "Late Edition With Wolf Blitzer."

Hertling said the coalition's troop surge, Iraq's security forces, national and provincial officials and the population's rejection of violent extremism all have contributed to a sharp decline in violence and allowed for economic progress.

The surge did much to improve security in Baghdad and other regions, he said, and "Sons of Iraq" citizen groups have assisted Coalition and Iraqi forces in the security effort. At the same time, he said, Iraq's army and police forces have continued to mature.

"There is an increasing capability of the Iraqi Security Forces," the general said. "They have grown tremendously, even in the 11 months we've been here."

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Col. Mark Spindler (right) discusses operations with an Iraqi policeman July 31. Army Maj. Gen. Mark P. Hertling, commander of Multi-National Division - North, said Iraqi Security Forces have contributed to a sharp decline in violence. Photo by Sgt. Daniel Blottenberger.

This Week in News ...

Iraqi Police Rule in 'Triangle of Death'



Sustained Progress, Shorter Deployments



ISF Leading Security in Diyala

DIYALA — A transfer of responsibility from Multi-National Division - North Soldiers to Iraqi Security Forces was finalized in the southern Balad Ruz area of the Diyala province of Iraq Aug. 2.

The volatile area of Diyala, where two operations are currently being conducted, has seen success with security for the Iraqi Army, Iraqi Police and local residents.

The 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment handed over its security responsibility to Col. Faris Radi Abbas, Balad Ruz police Chief and the 18th Brigade, 5th Iraqi Army Division Commander

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